

ACI's First Work and Life Skills Boot Camp is Saturday, Nov. 9, at Concordia University Chicago

Oct. 30, 2019



ACI launches its [Work and Life Skills Boot Camp](#) series on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at [Concordia University Chicago](#), River Forest. Targeted to low-income, first-generation and students of color at [ACI member colleges and universities](#), ACI's Work and Life Skills Boot Camps seek to enhance career development opportunities for these students and help level the field when they enter the job market.

The Nov. 9 boot camp's theme is "Who Do I Want to Be? How Do I Get There?" The day's curriculum explores how liberal arts education can lead to a career path, how to choose courses, work assignments and extracurricular activities that can boost marketability once students graduate, and how to write effective resumes, with support from Upkey's proprietary system. Students also will hear stories from first-generation college graduates -- now early- to mid-career -- about how they found their way to rewarding lives and careers. The day will conclude with a financial literacy session on building credit, provided by Wells Fargo.

ACI is working with career development professionals, multicultural directors and [Peer Mentoring Program](#) Campus Coordinators to select students to attend the boot camps. "Our Boot Camps equip these students with the skills they'll need to apply for and succeed at first jobs," says ACI Executive Director Mick Weltman. "The curriculum also addresses skills for effective daily living through a series of financial literacy sessions."

ACI's Work and Life Skills Boot Camps are funded through a [First Opportunity Partners grant](#) from the [Council of Independent Colleges](#) with support from the UPS Foundation, along with matching funds raised by ACI. Faculty for the Nov. 9 boot camp includes Nancy Arnesen, PhD, professor of English, North Park University; Joan Henehan, senior director of student leadership and involvement, Concordia University Chicago; Kirstyn Kroll, partnership and relationship manager, Upkey; and Teri Wilson, assistant vice president and Wells Fargo At Work senior program manager, Wells Fargo.

A panel of mid-career professionals will include Evelyn Aucutt, assistant director of academic success, North Park University; Kathy Gebhardt, assistant vice president of student life/acting dean of students, Concordia University Chicago; Marisol Gonzalez Castillo, staff attorney, Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee; and ACI Board of Trustees members Barry C. Mastin, Jr., construction underwriting consultant, Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., and J. Vincent Williams, vice president, economic empowerment, YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago.

ACI plans to hold two additional boot camps in 2020. The February session will be built on interviewing skills and personal presentation considerations, and the April session will address technology and the workplace. Like the November session, the remaining boot camps will include a financial literacy component.

Opportunities are available to sponsor ACI's Work and Life Skills Boot Camps, to participate in curriculum development and serve as faculty for future sessions. For more information, contact Mick Weltman at 312-263-2391, ext. 1, or write to mweltman@acifund.org.